

WINTER 2013 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





*Dr. Randall J. Webb,
1965, 1966
President
Northwestern State
University*

Dear Alumni,

As we conclude the holiday season, it is a good opportunity to look back on a successful year at Northwestern State University.

During the past year, the university added more than 1,600 new alumni who will go around the country and the world spreading the good name of Northwestern State. The university was able to celebrate the opening of a rehabilitated Caspari Hall and the formal dedication of the Student Services Center, two new facilities that have had a positive impact on the university by making it easier for students to obtain needed services. In October, we had one of the best Homecoming celebrations in recent years. The university community planned a number of events that were well attended and students enjoyed a week of fun activities.

In this issue of the Alumni Columns, you will learn about some of the wonderful things being done by our faculty and alumni. Bill Noonan is a well-known figure in Baton Rouge for his dedication to promoting health and fitness. Ted Buras had a successful career as a NASA engineer and has made an impact by working with youth through Little League and over three decades as a Boy Scout Scoutmaster. Assistant Professor of Nursing Wendy Palermo initiated a grassroots effort to help families in need care for their newborns.

I hope you can join us for a special event, The President's Command Performance in April. This event will feature our own accomplished students in Creative and Performing Arts and include special recognition to Bill Brent. You can read more about that event on Page 1.

I thank you for all you do to support Northwestern State University and extend to the entire Northwestern State family best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2014.



*Dr. Chris Maggio,
1985, 1991
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement*

My fellow alumni:

Excitement is in the air here in Natchitoches as the city has already begun a celebration to mark the 300th anniversary of its founding. In addition to The President's Command Performance, there are numerous events planned throughout the coming year in which Northwestern will have a strong presence.

As readers of this magazine know, keeping the NSU family connected is one of our top priorities. In addition to enjoying the print version of Alumni Columns, I hope you will view the extended online version at northwesternalumni.com/alumnicolumns for even more news about our alma mater. Read more on the back cover of this magazine about some of the new ways you can stay engaged in the life of the university, even if you live far away.

I hope you will be able to visit Northwestern State and the city of Natchitoches in the coming year as Northwestern State marks its 130th year and the city of Natchitoches its 300th. Great things are happening at Northwestern State and our best days are yet to come.

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PRESIDENT'S COMMAND PERFORMANCE

a Celebration of spring and more



Northwestern State University will host a spring gala to celebrate the talents of students in the creative and performing arts and to honor Bill Brent, former director of the Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts. Brent has been named the inaugural inductee to the School's Hall of Fame in recognition for his service to the school and university.

The President's Command Performance will take place Friday, April 4 and will include performances by several Northwestern State musical ensembles, vocalists and dancers and an art exhibition during the affair that will begin with a cocktail reception in the Alumni Plaza, Orville Hanchey Gallery and Magale Recital Hall.

"This is the first time the university has presented a spring celebration and we are very excited to share with our family and friends the wonderful talents of our students in a different venue," said Dr. Chris Maggio, assistant vice

president for external affairs. "The President's Command Performance is the perfect occasion to recognize outgoing director of Creative and Performing Arts Bill Brent and his years of service to the university."

"It will be a celebration of the creative and performing arts," said Greg Handel, acting director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts. Guests will enjoy performances by the Demon Heat Color Guard, the Spirit of Northwestern drum line and dance student preparing for the Spring Celebration of Dance, Handel said. "Everything will be represented, from large ensembles to small chamber groups and our visual artists."

The celebration will begin in the Alumni Plaza at 6 p.m. with entertainment by the NSU Jazz Orchestra as cocktails and hors d'ouerves are served during a silent auction. Guests will be able to mingle in the Plaza and Hanchey Gallery where they can view student and faculty art before taking their seats in Magale Recital Hall for a concluding musical performance and a program honoring Brent. Induct-

ees into the university's Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, will also be recognized.

Pre-sale tickets are \$65 per person or \$125 per couple with reserved tables of eight available. Sponsorships are available at the patron and corporate levels. Patron sponsors will enjoy select seating in the Alumni Plaza and reserved seats in Magale Recital Hall. Corporate sponsorships include those amenities as well as priority parking. Attire is cocktail. Proceeds will benefit the Northwestern State University Foundation.

"Our annual Christmas Gala is so tremendously popular, we welcomed the idea of hosting an event to celebrate spring during the city of Natchitoches's Tricentennial," Maggio said. "Our students have devoted many hours to prepare for this event and it promises to be memorable."

To purchase tickets and for sponsorship information, contact Vanner Erikson, assistant director of Alumni Affairs, at (318) 357-5213. Information is also available at Northwesternalumni.com.



Dedication ceremonies for Northwestern State University's new Student Services Center and renovated Caspari Hall, home to the university's administrative offices, opened with remarks from state and local officials and tours of buildings, which were designed to better serve students by centralizing several offices. Joining the ribbon cutting for Caspari Hall were, from left, University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors member Jimmy Long, Vice President for External Affairs Jerry Pierce, Pete Abington, Margaret Sutton, Natchitoches Parish President Rick Nowlin, State Sen. Gerald Long, Kerlin Sutton, NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb, Mark Sutton (partially hidden), Natchitoches Mayor Lee Posey, State Rep. Kenny Cox, Jonathan Donaldson (partially hidden), Powhatan Mayor Johnnie Taylor, Northwestern State Student Government Association President Kyla Winey, State Rep. Terry Brown, Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce President and Chief Executive Officer Tony Davis (partially hidden), Parish council Member Ricky LaCour, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Lisa Abney, Assistant Vice President for External Affairs Dr. Chris Maggio and Harold Boutte, assistant commissioner of administrative services for the Board of Regents.

Officials join ribbon-cutting for Caspari, SSC

Northwestern State University hosted a dedication and grand opening for two buildings in the heart of the university's campus. Gov. Bobby Jindal and state and local officials joined student leaders and university administrators for a ribbon cutting of the newly-renovated Caspari Hall and the Student Services Center Sept. 4. The event included remarks from guests and tours of the facilities, which were designed to better serve students by centralizing several administrative offices.

"The Northwestern family is extremely proud to reopen the repurposed, refurbished historic Caspari Hall. I am especially honored that the office of the president is now located in the building named after the 'Father of the Normal School.'"

—NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb

First opened as a men's athletic dormitory in 1939, Caspari Hall housed male students until its closure in 2003. The building is named for French-born businessman and politician Leopold Caspari who, while serving as state representative in 1884, spearheaded the campaign to establish the

Louisiana State Normal School, now Northwestern State University, in Natchitoches.

In addition to the office of the president, the 16,842 square-foot Caspari Hall is now also home to the provost and vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, dean of the College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research; Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Planning and Assessment and the internal auditor.

Caspari Hall is adjacent to the Student Services Center that opened last year on the former site of West Caspari Hall. The first state-funded new building constructed on the Northwestern State campus in over 30 years, the 34,451 square-foot facility is home to the Offices of University Recruiting, Student Life and First Year Experience, Financial Aid, Scholarships, Undergraduate and International Admissions and Dean of Students as well as the Registrar's Office, Bursar's Office, Student Accounting and One Card Office.

Both buildings combined cost \$12.1 million and were funded through \$98.4 million in surplus funds from the 2007-08 budget year set aside by the governor and the state legislature. The money was specifically earmarked for construction projects at state colleges and universities and could not be used to compensate for budget shortfalls.

More photos are available on the online Lagniappe section of this magazine available at northwesternalumni.com.

continued on page 3

Croce and friends remembered on 40th anniversary of fatal crash

Jim Croce, the singer-songwriter whose life was cut short in a plane crash following a concert at Northwestern State University's Prather Coliseum, was recognized on the 40th anniversary of his death. A commemoration took place in Natchitoches with performances of Croce's music and the unveiling of a new plaque that memorializes Croce, his bandmate Maury Muehleisen and four others who died Sept. 20, 1973.

The Croce tribute coincided with the Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival Sept. 20-21 on the downtown riverbank. Sept. 20 was declared "Jim Croce Day" in Natchitoches as he and Muehleisen were recognized by the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame. Bands booked to entertain during the Festival performed Croce songs, including Natchitoches musician Billy O'Con who portrayed Croce in a biopic about the late artist's life.

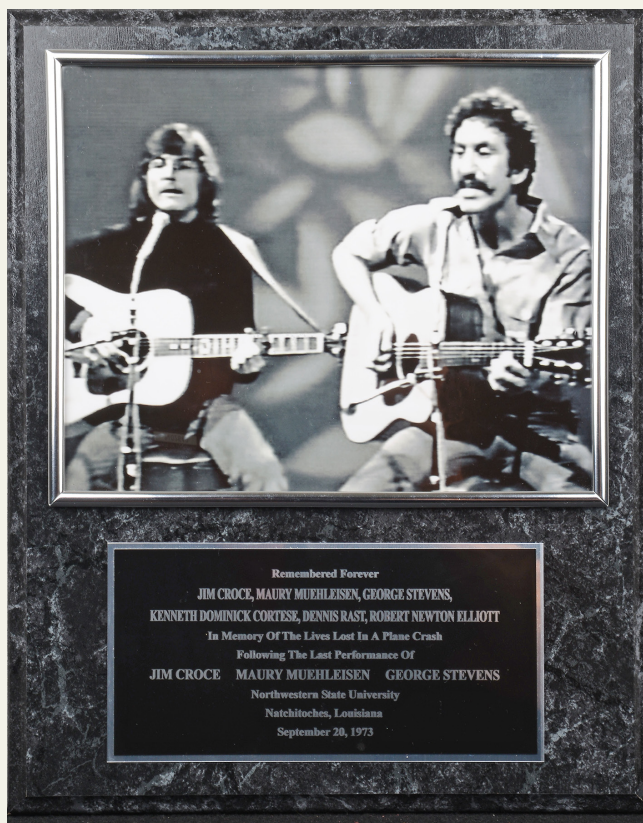
The plaque memorializing Croce and his entourage will be installed in Prather Coliseum. Bryan Gallagher of Alexandria, Ala., a devoted fan of Croce and Muehleisen, donated the plaque that replaces one that once hung in the Sylvan Friedman Student Union, with input from Mary Muehleisen, Maury Muehleisen's sister.

"I have been a fan of Jim Croce and his musical partner Maury Muehleisen since I was about 10 years old and prior to their deaths in 1973," Gallagher said. "The more of Jim's music I heard through the years the more I realized how every aspect of it was special and could never be duplicated."

Mary Muehleisen has kept her brother's memory alive through a website, maurymuehleisen.com. A memorial also took place at the Upper Darby, Penn., High School's Performing Arts Center on Sept. 21 in memory of Croce, one of the school's most famous graduates. That event, "Time in a Bottle: A Tribute to Jim Croce," raised money for a Jim Croce scholarship.

"Jim and Maury were two wonderful, young, gifted musicians and great friends," Mary Muehleisen said. Muehleisen was 24 when he died. "I hope that many students, faculty and visitors will remember those who died that night in Natchitoches after their last concert."

Croce's folksy, everyman style and sensitive lyrics remained popular in the decades following his death at age 30. A prolific songwriter, between 1966 and 1973 Croce released five studio albums and 11 singles that topped the charts, including "Operator" and "Don't Mess Around with Jim." His singles "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" and "Time in



a Bottle" were both number one hits on the *Billboard* Hot 100 charts.

Gallagher believes Croce's music was enriched by his friendship with Muehleisen, a classically trained pianist and self-taught guitarist. Croce and Muehleisen were introduced by a musical friend and their collaboration created the albums "You Don't Mess Around with Jim," "Life and Times" and "I Got A Name" in 1972 and 1973. Their last album together was finished one week before the tragic plane crash.

"They made three albums together and were appearing on shows like 'The Midnight Special' and 'The Helen Reddy Show,'" Gallagher said. "Jim was going to be the summer host of 'The Tonight Show' but his death came before. On the brink of national fame and

fortune, Jim had signed to do a show at Northwestern State before he became well-known but due to illness he cancelled. He later decided to make it up at the same price even though demand for him had surged."

Gallagher visited Natchitoches in 2011 and discovered the original plaque had been removed from the Student Union. He contacted Mary Muehleisen and the two designed the new plaque that will be placed in Prather Coliseum.

"I consider it an honor to restore the plaque in memory of all who perished," Gallagher said. "I asked Mary to pick out the wording of the plaque. I thought it would mean more to have her, as family, to have the appropriate wording to honor all who died that night. I hope the plaque will be placed at Prather Coliseum in their memories and honor. As a fan I feel pleased to do something in honor of these men. It's been 40 years since their passing but we still remember."

On Thursday, Sept. 20, 1973, Croce performed at Northwestern State as part of his Life and Times Tour, the day before his single "I Got A Name" was released. About an hour after the concert ended, Croce, Muehleisen, pilot Robert Elliott, comedian George Stevens who had opened the show, manager Kenneth Cortese and road manager Dennis Rast died when the aircraft in which they were travelling crashed during takeoff from Natchitoches Regional Airport.

News of Croce's death sparked a renewed interest in his previous albums. Three months later, "Time in a Bottle," originally released on Croce's first album, hit number one on Dec. 29, 1973, the third posthumous chart-topping song of the rock era following Otis Redding's "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay" and Janis Joplin's recording of "Me and Bobby McGee."

Colonna returns to NSU to introduce new album, 'Nectar'

Singer Wendy Colonna held an album release concert at NSU's Collins Pavilion Oct. 17. Colonna, an alumna of the Louisiana Scholars' College, is touring to promote her new CD "Nectar." The process that led to the CD started at NSU where an ecology class sparked a fascination with pollination and bees. She said "Nectar" honors "the insight and perspective this gave her to observe the magic and miracles of life on planet earth."

Colonna's career began to take shape while at Northwestern State. She and Hannah Vincent formed a popular duo, Wendy and Hannah, that performed around the Natchitoches area.

"I knew Hannah through some mutual friends. We just met one day with our guitars on a friend's porch and the rest is history," said Colonna. "We were both starting to write songs and our harmonies were amazing to begin with. We knew a lot of the old hippie songs and just built a repertoire from those and expanded into other covers. All the while we were both writing new songs and when she moved to Natchitoches, we fell into step gigging."

A producer discovered Wendy and Hannah and recorded the duo live which quickly led to other opportunities.

"We were asked to do that live recording and then right after the gig was over, the guy who owned the studio took us into his office and offered us a record deal with a hefty advance," said Colonna. "We were astounded. We took the deal, but later parted ways and both did separate albums. That was sort of the beginning for me."

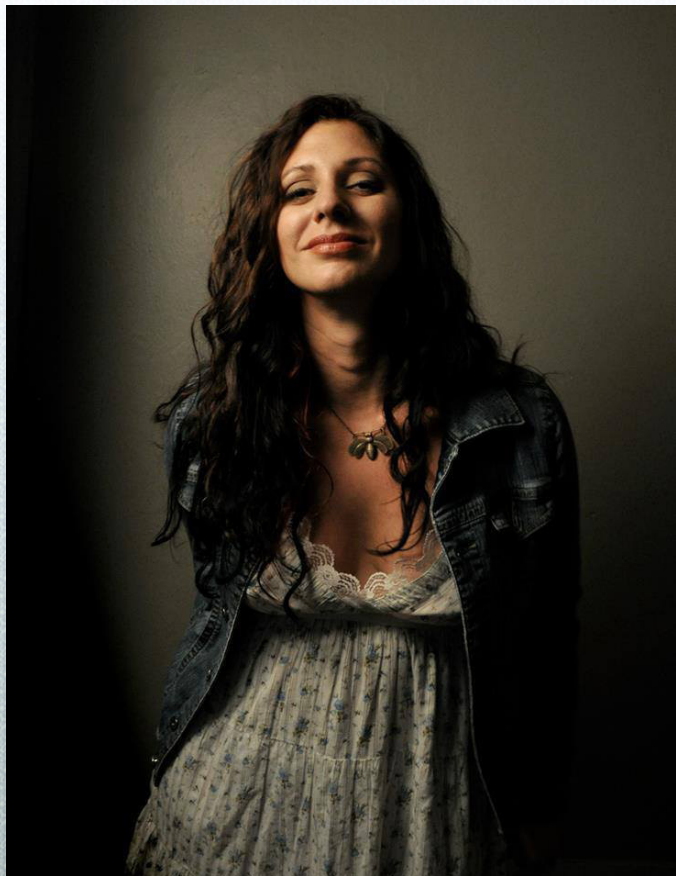
Colonna has lived in Austin since 2000 as her career has blossomed. She was named the "Best Singer Songwriter in Austin" by the Austin American-Statesman and was the winner of multiple songwriting contests including Indiegirl, Int'l Acoustic Music Awards, 100% Music, Mid-Atlantic Songwriting Contest, Independent Music Songwriting Contest and International Acoustic Music Award.

"I had always loved Austin as a teen and enjoyed visiting and where New Orleans' energy is a bit dark, Austin is a little lighter. It felt more possible," said Colonna. "I had already lived in Natchitoches and Europe by then and there were lots of ghosts everywhere. I guess I was ready for the surprises that came with a city that felt like it was thriving and thrilling and still musical and diverse."

"Since I've lived here, I've been integrated in the musical community. I've worked with some of Austin's finest musicians and producers and have even produced several charity events benefitting the community here."

Colonna has released five studio albums plus a live album. She can hear how she has evolved as a musician when listening to earlier albums.

"I listen to the old recordings and hear a girl who was writing beautiful poetry but was nervous about sharing it," said Colonna. "My range has improved, my songwriting has



*"I try to write
as little as possible
to take someone to a place,
a story, an emotion."*

become so much simpler. I try to write as little as possible to take someone to a place, a story, an emotion. I'm older. I have become less jaded for sure. It's funny to hear those old songs. They are so hopeless and heavy. As much as life has taken a whack at me over the years, I end up lighter and clearly more focused on capturing the richness of the moment without all that angst that comes with being young and fearing and desiring the experiences that shape us as people."

For more information on Colonna, go to wendycolonna.com.

Spotlights

Susan Thompson Taylor was awarded the Golden Violet from Sigma Sigma Sorority in recognition of 50 years of membership in the national sorority, an honor given only to those who have proven their commitment through friendship, service and financial support.

While a member of Alpha Zeta chapter at Northwestern State, Taylor held several committee chairmanships and offices, including chapter president. As an alumna, she supported the activities of the NSU chapter by assisting with recruitment, Founders Day, Thanksgiving dinner and, most recently, the new Sigma house on campus.

To be nominated for the Golden Violet, community involvement is also a consideration. Mrs. Taylor is past president of both Les Amies Service Organization and Natchitoches Jaycee Jaynes and for nine years served as chairman of the Miss Merry Christmas program as part of the Natchitoches Christmas Festival. For many years she supported the activities of her children and grandchildren relating to St. Mary's School, St. Mary's athletics and Natchitoches Parish 4-H. She is also a former board member of the Northwestern State Alumni Association.

Taylor is a Natchitoches business-woman who opened the first balloon delivery in Natchitoches in 1982 and for 14 years owned the local Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio.

Taylor earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern in 1966 and master's degree in 1967. She is married to Griffin Taylor Jr. (1967). The couple has three children and nine grandchildren.

Roy Davis (1999) was appointed director of Technical Services at Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Since joining the company five years ago, he served as director of operations and maintenance FM and TV. MPB is a full-service television and FM station with 16 transmitters covering the state of Mississippi.

Nancy Anderson is the primary care service provider for Sacred Heart Medical Group's new primary care office in Wewahitchkam Fla. Anderson earned an associate degree in nursing at Northwestern State in 1978 and Master of Science in Nursing in 1995. She later earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. She is a Florida-licensed Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) and has been in practice since 1995. ARNPs are advanced practice nurses with extensive training, including a master's degree and clinical experience. ARNPs diagnose and treat diseases, provide education for patients and prescribe medications. They often serve as a patient's primary health care provider and see patients of all ages.

Dr. Archie Breazeale, **Sadie Maggio Dark** (1942), **Dr. Colleen Lancaster** (1947), **Mary Lee Posey** (1949) and the late **Margaret Harling** (1978) were named Natchitoches Treasures, an elite group of Natchitoches residents of retirement age who have made lasting contributions to the community through their generosity, service, volunteerism and spirit. A recognition program was held in October.



Vera Martin (1948), was honored with a Golden Deeds Award, presented annually to a Baton Rouge-area philanthropist by the Inter-Civic Council and *The Advocate* of Baton Rouge. Martin was feted with a banquet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in November.

Martin, who was a high school home economics teacher and guidance counselor for 36 years, has a long history of service to her community. The 1973 she was a key organizer in the Broadmoor High School Arts and Crafts Fair and served as director of the event, one of the largest craft shows in Louisiana, for 30 years.

After graduating from Northwestern State, the Mora native lived in Opelousas, then Baton Rouge. Her interest in arts and crafts is derived from projects used in her home economics classes. She was approached by the American Red Cross and began organizing arts and crafts-themed fundraisers for that group. She also organized fundraisers for Cajun Clickers, a group that helps individuals learn to use technology; the Parkview Baptist Church choir, YMCA/Jewish Community Center in New Orleans, Luling Elementary School and Friendship Force, an international organization that fosters friendship worldwide.

Her most recent work has been with Esther House, which helps women released from prison get a fresh start, and Brave Heart-Children In Need, an organization that provides Christmas bags to abused and neglected children.

Martin said her giving nature is modeled on her mother and she derives a lot from helping others.

Northwestern State University is updating its Alumni Directory and graduates of the university may be contacted by Harris Connect, the firm with whom NSU has partnered to complete the project. Harris Connect specializes in constituent engagement for non-profit organizations.

"Over the next several months, alumni may receive postcards, e-mails or phone calls from Harris Connect asking for updated contact information," said Haley Blount, associate director of alumni affairs. "We appreciate our graduates' cooperation in updating their contact information. All updates are returned to Northwestern State so that alumni databases are current. Harris Connect is only collecting information for the purposes of publication. It's a great way to stay connected to the NSU alumni community."

Designed to be a definitive reference for Northwestern State alumni, the directory makes connecting with friends and former classmates easy, Blount said. Complete listings for each respondent will include academic, professional and personal information sorted alphabetically by last name. Alumni will also be listed by city and state of reference and an editorial section about Northwestern State gives readers a look at the school's history.

"To help make the publication as complete as possible, please be sure to respond to our appeal to update your biographical profile," Blount said.

For more information on the project, contact Blount at (318) 357-4414 or e-mail blounth@nsula.edu.

Issac awarded posthumous Medal of Honor

A Natchitoches Parish sheriff's deputy and Northwestern State graduate who died on a patrol shift last year was awarded the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement Medal of Honor during a ceremony in Baton Rouge.

Ricky Issac Jr. was 24 years old when he died in a car crash on Dec. 8, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Akilah, and his son, Ricky Ray Issac III. Akilah was three months pregnant when Issac died.

Issac grew up in Cypress, Texas, and moved to Natchitoches to play football at Northwestern State University. He made a name for himself on the field and was well-regarded during his time with the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Victor Jones went to Baton Rouge to eulogize Issac during the ceremony. Jones said Issac became more like a son to him, as Issac spent many hours on the farm with Jones and his son.



"It's a tough deal," Jones said. "I've been to these memorials for several years, and especially since I've been sheriff. I'm always in the background, and I've always said I hope I'm never up front. Now, here I am."

Jones said Issac's abilities in the field of law enforcement came naturally.

"The things you have to teach in the academy, he had it naturally," Jones said.

Those abilities were much like Issac's athletic abilities.

Natchitoches Mayor Lee Posey knew Issac mostly from the football field.

"I just know the guy was a super individual," he said. "Listening to his ex-coaches, his teammates, his athletic administrators, he left a very positive influence on people. He accomplished a lot, and he is well-deserving of this honor."

The Medal of Honor was established by the Louisiana Legislature to recognize the service and ultimate sacrifice made by law enforcement officers for the protection and safety of the citizens of Louisiana.

A total of 76 Medal of Honor recipients have been honored since 1997.

Williams honored with AAA Lifetime Service Award

The American Accounting Association (AAA) named Doyle Z. Williams (1960) a recipient of the inaugural Lifetime Service Award, an honor bestowed by the group's board of directors earlier this year. The Lifetime Service Award recognizes service contributions to accounting education over a sustained period of time through service to the AAA, service with the education efforts in the profession through involvement with the AICPA IMA, and other accounting professional organizations and service with the education efforts of public accounting firms, corporations and not-for-profit organizations.

"Williams' career has been one of program building and professional service."

—Deirdre Harris, AAA marketing and communications manager

Williams served as coordinator for the Area of Accounting at Texas Tech University, chair of the Department of Accounting at the University of Southern California (USC) and founding dean of the School of Accounting at USC, followed by two years as interim dean of the USC School of business. He served as dean of the College of Business, which became

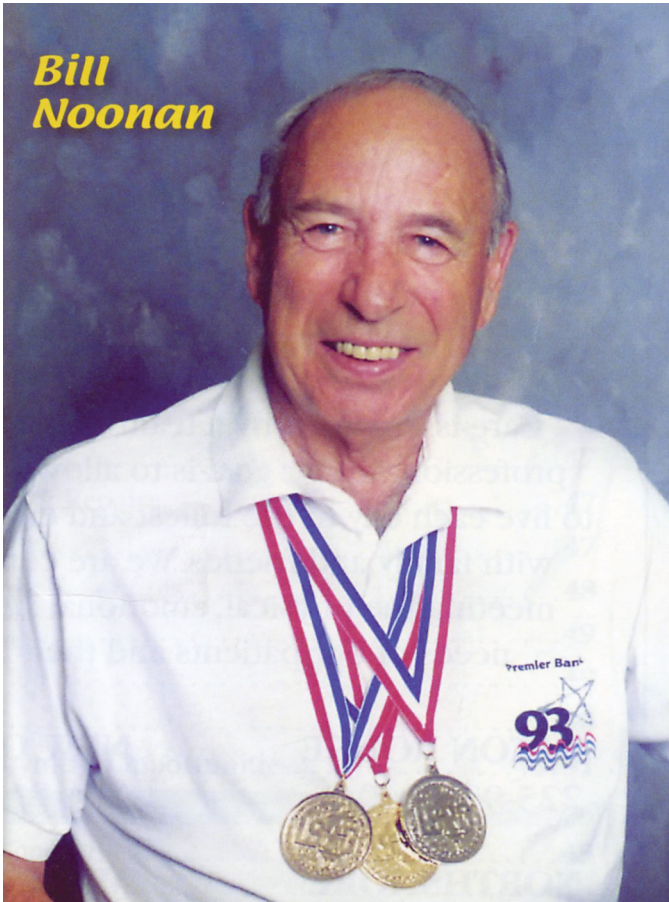
the Walton College of Business under his deanship, at the University of Arkansas. Later, he served as senior scholar in accounting at Kennesaw State University.

Williams' 192 professional offices and leadership service appointments include serving as president of the AAA, chair of AACSB International, chairman of the Education Change Commission and executive director of the Accounting Doctoral Scholars Program. He also served on the board of directors of the American Institute of CPAs. He authored or co-authored 49 articles and several monographs and contributed to over 10 books. His 42 awards and recognitions include the AICPA's Gold Medal Award, the AAA's Outstanding Accounting Educator Award, induction into Louisiana State University's College of Business Hall of Distinction, Texas Tech University's Lifetime Achievement in Accounting Education Award and is a member of the Northwestern State's Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line.

Last year Williams was named to the *Journal of Accountancy's* "125 People of Impact in Accounting Since 1887." He holds a B.S. degree in accounting from Northwestern State and M.S. (1962) and Ph.D. (1965) degrees in accounting from Louisiana State University.

The American Accounting Association is the largest community of accountants in academia. Founded in 1916, the organization has a history built on leading-edge research and publications.

Making An Impact



Bill Noonan an advocate for good health

health, physical education and recreation for the U.S. Office of Education. In the 1960s, Noonan served on President John F. Kennedy's Physical Fitness Council and conducted fitness clinics for U.S. Air Forces in England, Germany and Turkey and later in Iran and Portugal.

"It was after the war and the pilots were sitting in the plane and not doing much else and were getting fat, so I trained them in fitness programs," he explained.

He held offices in the Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation and the Society of State Directors for Health, Physical Education and Recreation and directed the national Lifetime Sports Education Project for the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, which conducted clinics for teachers and recreation leaders all over the United States and Canada.

"We did clinics and fitness demonstrations on how schools could make the best of their programs and promoted life-times sports like golf and tennis," he said.

"I moved all over the place and I had more fun and enjoyed everything I've done," he said.

For many years, he was director of the I Care program, a program serving students and community in alcohol and drug prevention and safety education for public and private schools in East Baton Rouge Parish. He has served on numerous health advisory councils and programs from the Environment and Health Council of Louisiana to the Baton Rouge crisis Intervention Board and agencies that address health and education.

Noonan's ties to Northwestern include his father, William Earl Noonan Sr.; wife, Adele Frazier Noonan and brother Robert Harry Noonan, who all earned degrees there. He called the time he spent at Northwestern "the best time I ever had" and mentioned Coach Harry "Rags" Turpin and Coach Walter Ledet as special mentors. He was born in Beaumont, Texas, but was brought up in Vinton.

As a college student, Noonan lettered in sports at three universities, in basketball at McNeese, which was then a junior college; in football at LSU and in football basketball and track and field at Northwestern. In Senior Olympics, he competed in pole vault, high jump and 50 meter dash. He still plays tennis and formed a humor club, the Creative Bumper Stickers (CBS) Club and later a travel club called the Bamboozers. He has been a Baton Rouge resident since 1957 and continues to enjoy tennis.

Bill Noonan has spent a lifetime promoting health and fitness and has an impressive resume in directing, training and involvement with schools, public health councils and national and international programs that promote health and wellness. At 87, he has been a lifelong athlete and advocate for health, physical education and recreation for all ages.

Earlier this year, Noonan was lauded in the Greater Baton Rouge's Senior Resource Guide with a cover story in which he was quoted as saying "What do we live for if not to make the world less difficult for others?" The article identified him as one of the most well-known public servants in Baton Rouge. In 1989, he was the first recipient of the Bill Noonan Award for Lifetime Achievement in drug and alcohol prevention in Louisiana. Most recently, he has been active in Senior Olympics in regional, state and national events and was honored by the Louisiana Senior Olympic Sports Hall of Fame. The list of service goes on and on.

Noonan graduated from Northwestern State in 1946 and earned a master's degree at Louisiana State University in 1950. He began his career as an educator teaching at Leesville High School before joining the faculty at Southeastern Louisiana as supervisor of student teaching in math and health and physical education and was a specialist in

Many thanks to all who responded to requests for nominations of alumni to feature for Making An Impact. We received dozens of excellent recommendations and will be following up as many as possible for future issues of Alumni Columns.

Ted Buras speaks on mentoring youth, developing leadership and ‘Reaching for the Stars’

Although his career with the space program is a source of pride, the endeavors Newton Ted Buras (1962) found most fulfilling were in mentoring youth and, as a widower, seeing his sons become successful men. Buras enjoyed a long career as an engineer with NASA, but also devoted much of his energy to working with youth through Boy Scouts, Little League and speaking to community groups about the benefits of the space program.

Buras has been a Boy Scout Scoutmaster for over 32 years and helped many boys in his community advance to Eagle Scout. During that time he led a group of community youth to the Philmont Scout ranch in New Mexico on a high adventure backpacking trip, taught leadership courses to adults and youth and wrote letters of recommendation to colleges and universities for students applying for admission and scholarships.

His career with NASA, which began in 1967, was also rewarding.

“The urge to explore the unknown is part of human nature and has led to many of the most profound changes in our standard of living,” he said.

Buras was born in Houston but grew up in Louisiana, the son of a World War II merchant marine. Interested in music as a child, he discovered an early aptitude for electronics and at 14 took his first job in a radio and television repair shop in New Orleans. Working at the shop through high school and installing antennas all over New Orleans, Buras planned to open his own repair shop, but his plans changed when he joined the U.S. Army Reserves during his senior year at East Jef-

erson High School.

Always interested in fitness, Buras was an active member of the New Orleans Athletic Club, participating in running, swimming, boxing and some weightlifting.

“I worked very hard at the NOAC during my last few years in high school,” he said. “Two weeks following my graduation, I was on my way to Fort Chaffee, Ark., to being Army basic training. I found Army basic training physically easy. My hard workouts at the NOAC were a big help.”

Buras was also involved in Scouting in a troop with a dedicated Scout Master.

“My dad was a member of the committee. He participated when he was home from his worldly sea travels.” A Scout trip to Washington, D.C., in 1953 made a profound impression on Buras, as he visited the White House, the FBI building, the U.S. Treasury, the Smithsonian Institute and the offices of his congressman, F. Edward Hebert. Buras’s troop started an air squadron sponsored by Eastern Airlines that met at the Moisant International Airport in Kenner, now Louis Armstrong International Airport, when he was about 15.

“Eastern Airlines was flying their latest aircraft called the Silver Falcon. We wore a Silver Falcon patch on our uniform shirt sleeve,” he remembered. “Eastern Airlines assigned one of their best pilots, a young captain, to instruct us in aviation basics. He owned a Stinson Voyager aircraft. He took three of us at one time to fly over New Orleans. I remember looking down at the Pelican baseball stadium at the corner of Tulane and Carrollton avenues. Each of us took turns being the co-pilot.” After the air squadron experience, Buras went back to the troop to complete the requirements to be an Eagle Scout.

After high school, Buras completed 5-1/2 years of active reserve duty, receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1963. During that time, he earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial technology-electronics from Northwestern State in 3-1/2 years by attending college full-time year-round. He had also married his wife Sheila and had a



continued on page 9

part-time job.

"Prior to my discharge from the Army, I was offered opportunities to have a direct commission as an officer," he said. "I had serious thoughts about a military career. I chose to work as a civilian and stay in the Army Reserve to complete my military obligation."

His first job in the aerospace industry began at Chrysler Corporation Space Division's Michoud facility, which was activated as a space center in response to President John F. Kennedy's goal to put a man on the moon in that decade.

"Chrysler hired me as an electrical design engineer B working in the instrumentation department on the Saturn 1B program. I became very interested in instrumentation and telemetry."

Chrysler sent him to train in the astrionics lab at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. In 1966, IBM Huntsville hired him as engineer on the Apollo Instrument Unit of the Apollo Saturn V booster. While there, he took classes at the University of Alabama to work on his master's degree in mathematics. Following his contract with IBM, he had two choices to work at NASA.

"One assignment was to work at the Kennedy Space Center in launch vehicle operations at the Launch Control Center. The other choice was an assignment in Flight Crew Operations at the Manned Spacecraft Center, now called the Johnson Space Center." The couple and their son David, who was born in 1963, relocated to Houston where Buras began the job he was most interested in with Flight Crew Operations. Their son Kevin was born in 1967 and their third son Brian in 1971. As they grew older, the boys were involved in Scouting, youth sports and band.

Tragedy struck the family in 1980 when Sheila was killed in an automobile accident. Sheila, a graduate of Loyola University and accomplished teacher, was a devoted wife and mother.

"The boys were young when they lost their mother and this was the worst thing that could have happened," he said. "I did everything I could to give our sons the things they needed to succeed and make life better for them."

Today, David is a physician in private practice. Kevin is an attorney and a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, having earned a Bronze Star for service in Afghanistan and has served as a state department diplomat to Iraq. Brian earned bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in engineering from the University of Texas. Buras has two grandchildren, Bridget and Samson.

"As a single parent raising three boys, I made decisions hoping they were the right decisions. I often wondered what their mother would have done."

Buras has also been responsible for his brother and nephew, who are medically disabled.

During 38 years of government service, he worked on the Apollo the Skylab Program, the Earth Resources Microwave Program and the Space Shuttle Program. He was an active member of the Johnson Space Center Speaker's Bureau, giving speeches to many schools, civic clubs, a convention and senior retirement meetings describing the advances -- medical benefits, protective flame-proof materials, smoke detectors, laser angioplasty, portable medical equipment, cardiac imagery and more -- available to the public because of the space program. He also discussed advances in education and training, safety, search and rescue, environmental and resource management, communications and elements of industrial productivity that were developed through the space program and were later utilized by the private sector.

He retired from NASA in 2004 after 38 years of government service and did consulting work until 2011.

"It was a wonderful experience to be involved in a historical program such as Apollo," he said.

"I have given presentations to different schools and community groups explaining the NASA space program. I discussed the spin offs and benefits from the NASA program and how they influenced our society in treating cancer and other medical problems and improving our way of life. I continue to give these presentations to this date."

Buras has recounted his experience with NASA, his personal life, contribution to the space program and his community service in a book, "Reach for the Stars,"



expected to be available by the first of 2014.

"The success of the U.S. manned space flight programs can be attributed to the quality integrated test and verification of flight hardware, flight software and ground systems," he said. "The skills, dedication and hard work of thousands of aerospace workers across the United States contributed significantly to this success."

In 2012, Buras was invited to speak to first-year students in Northwestern State's engineering technology and computer information systems programs, reflecting on his experiences as a NASA employee.

"I told the group that I was one of them 50 years ago," he said. "Emphasis placed on communication skills in public speaking and technical writing are essential for a successful career. Go for an advanced degree. Once you hire into a company and are assigned to a group or department, you should become an expert or become knowledgeable in some project of that department. Always surround yourself with smart people and stay true to yourself, your family and your country."

Buras's book is available on Amazon.com.

On the Bookshelf

Kane releases new collection of light verse with an edge

While speaking around Louisiana as the state's poet laureate, Julie Kane found that audiences enjoyed the humorous poems she used to end her talks.

Kane, a professor of English at Northwestern State, used much of the light verse she has written over the past five years in a new book, "Paper Bullets," which was published by White Violet Press.

"Paper Bullets" is Kane's fifth book of poetry. She has written "Jazz Funeral," "Rhythm and Booze," "Body and Soul" and "The Bartender Poems."

"It's a book of humorous light verse, but all humor has an edge to it," said Kane who completed a two-year term as Louisiana poet laureate in July. "I had done several essays on women writers or light verse. I started writing the poems about five years ago as I was finishing 'Jazz Funeral,' which was quite somber. I wanted to make myself laugh and started writing little, humorous poems based on something funny that happened or an ironic event."

Kane said some of the poems came out of contest challenges she entered during the summer. Kane won a challenge from the London Spectator to take an Elvis Presley song and write it in the style of a well-known poet. Kane wrote "Heartbreak Hotel" in the style of Edna St. Vincent Millay. She also had a limerick published on the Los Angeles Times opinion page.

"I didn't think these poems would be published or even be taken seriously," she said. "I love the work of Dorothy Parker and the poetry is in the same vein as her poetry. But the danger of light verse is that what is funny to you may not be funny to others."

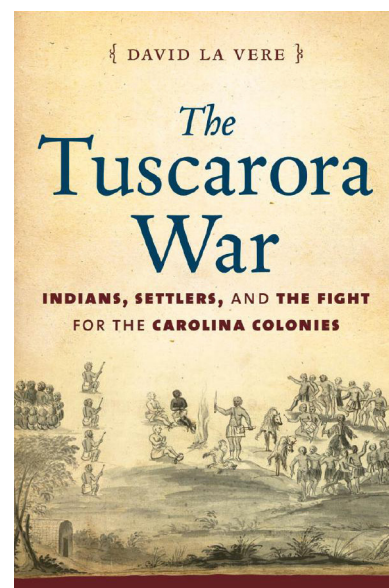
The title comes from Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing."

"It had a line about paper bullets that jumped out at me and was perfect for the title of this book," said Kane.

Kane recently participated in the annual Louisiana Book Festival in Baton Rouge, where she signed copies of "Paper Bullets." Also participating was The Brainy Acts Poets Society, a group of Northwestern State students with an interest in writing and presenting poetry. The Brainy Acts Poetry Society (BAPS) was established in 2010 by alumni Brandi White and Clemonce Heard along with other Northwestern State students.

BAPS put on its first event in 2010, Race of the Races, where several slam poetry type pieces were performed. BAPS began to coordinate a different performance a month with topics based on the emotions and vote of each poet. The group won an educational programming award its first year on at NSU. The Brainy Acts Poetry Society has performed at Grambling State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Southern University and other universities in Louisiana.

More information on Kane is available at JulieKanePoet.com. Her books are available on Amazon.com.



La Vere examines historic conflict in Carolina Colonies

Dr. David La Vere (1982, 1987), a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, has penned an account of the one of North Carolina's most brutal colonial wars, "The Tuscarora War: Indians, Settlers, and the Fight for the Carolina Colonies." In his account, La Vere examines the war through the lens of key players in the conflict, reveals the events that led to it and traces its far-reaching consequences.

La Vere details the innovative fortifications produced by the Tuscaroras, chronicles the colony's new practice of enslaving all captives and selling them out of the country and shows how both sides drew support from forces far outside the colony's borders. La Vere concludes that the merciless war pointed a new direction in the development of the future state of North Carolina.

The book, published by the University of North Carolina Press, is available at uncpress.unc.edu.

La Vere is also author of "Looting Spiro Mounds: An American King Tut's Tomb," among other books. He was editor of *The Current Sauce*, NSU's student newspaper, from 1980-81.

Entrepreneurs share ups and downs of life and business during Walter Porter Forum



From left are Abington, Talley, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, director of the School of Business, and Manno.

Three successful entrepreneurs shared their experiences in life and in business with Northwestern State University students, faculty and guests during the J. Walter Porter Forum sponsored by NSU's School of Business. Remarks by Pete Abington, Sherri Talley (1982) and John Manno Jr. (1978) described the ups and downs one can experience in the business world, but emphasized that challenges can be overcome with hard work, determination, flexibility and by seizing opportunities. The theme of the 2013 Porter Forum was "Business and the Current Economy: Trends and Outlook for the Future." The Forum is held annually the second Thursday of October.

Read more on this story in the online Lagniappe section of this magazine. Video clips are available here: vimeo.com/nsula/videos.

NSU hosts Bead Town, a Tricentennial tribute



Bead Town Top Volunteers

Individuals who contributed the most hours to the Natchitoches Tricentennial mural "Une Rue Principale en Louisiana" were recognized during a reception at Northwestern State University. Kneeling from left are Jasmine Jenkins, Callie Do and Tabrielle LaGrone. Standing are Meaghan Focheaux, Ethan Stelly, Rachel Neathamer, Veronica Sturman, Trexie Ramps, Mary Smith, Sophia Gruesbeck, Hanna Ryder, Tanya Sturman, Leslie Gruesbeck and Pam Hetherwick. On the back row are Artist Stephan Wanger, Emma Gruesbeck and Daniel Chatelain. Not shown are Devon and Lauren Mathews. Northwestern State's School of Creative and Performing Art/Department of Fine + Graphic Art hosted Bead Town. Officials from Guinness Book of World Records were scheduled to visit Dec. 4 in conjunction with the mural's official unveiling and a screening of a documentary about Wanger and his work. Read more about Bead Town Natchitoches in the online Lagniappe section of this magazine and view images of Wanger's work at galeriaalegria.com and Facebook.com/BeadTownNatchitoches.



Click here for video of 2013 Distinguished Educators Induction

Northwestern State University's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development hosted a program and reception for alumni inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Educators and two Friends of Education. From left are Dr. John Robson of Baton Rouge, representing the late Dr. John Basin Robson (1928); Dr. Lisa Abney, provost and vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; Lt. Col. Dr. James Rougeau of Branson, Mo. (1958); Sally Tanner Namie of Benton (1972); John R. Williams of Baton Rouge (1959, 1966); Randy Moffett of Lumberton, Miss., Friend of Education, (1971); Carol H. Hebert of Alexandria (1971, 1980); Dr. Jeanne Burns of Baton Rouge, Friend of Education; Dr. Vickie Gentry, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development; Scott Brame of Alexandria, former member of the Louisiana Board of Regents, and NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb.

Read the full story in the online Lagniappe section of Alumni Columns.

2014 Cruises

The Northwestern State University Alumni Association is offering an opportunity for travelers to experience exotic, historic and breathtaking destinations while contributing financial support to the Association. Two luxury cruises are planned for 2014 to western Europe and northern Europe.

"These cruises are a great opportunity for our alumni to network with other Northwestern State alumni and Louisiana natives," said Haley Blount, associate director of Alumni Affairs. "The trips are offered to our alumni and friends at discounted rates because of the partnership we share with other Louisiana universities and the travel companies. It's also the perfect way to be able to give back to the university, because the NSU Alumni Association gets a portion of the proceeds from each booking."

A **European Tapestry** cruise with ports of call in Portugal, Spain and France is scheduled for June 23-July 1. Travellers will visit ancient and modern wonders in Oporto, La Coruña and Bilbao, and explore the splendor of Bordeaux, the legendary wine country of France.

A **Baltic Marvels** cruise will set sail from Copenhagen to Stockholm with stops in Germany, Estonia, Russia and Finland. This cruise sails Aug. 13-21.

For more information, visit northwesternalumni.com where the Events link will lead users to the NSU Travel page or call Blount at (318) 357-4414.

Northwestern State seeking nominations for Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development Alumni Advisory Board is seeking nominations for the Hall of Distinguished Educators for 2014. Nominees must have graduated from Northwestern State's College of Education at least 30 years prior to nomination. Inductees will be honored during a brunch and induction ceremony at the Teacher Education Center during Homecoming festivities. The deadline to submit nominations is July 20.

Anyone who would like to nominate an outstanding College of Education alumnus who has had a distinguished career in education should send the nominee's resume and other documentation outlining the reason for the nomination to NSU Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development, c/o Janet Broadway, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497.

Additional information is available by calling Broadway at (318) 357-6278 or e-mailing broadwayj@nsula.edu.



Northwestern State University's School of Business inducted four individuals into its Hall of Distinction during 2013 Homecoming Festivities. Charles "Ed" Dranguet (1961) of Natchitoches, Joe Schelette (1969) of Shreveport, R. Stewart Ewing Jr. (1973) of Monroe and Barbara Jo Pease (1973) of Houston were selected based on their personal and professional success and contributions to the greater good. From left are Dranguet, Dr. Austin Temple, dean of the College of Science, Technology and Business; Schelette and Ewing. Pease was unable to attend. Read the full story in Alumni Columns online Lagniappe section.



Former Vic the Demons gathered for a reunion and were recognized during Homecoming Festivities. They were Dan Medlin, David Morgan, Elmer Hermes, Scott Davis, Pat Malmstrom, the current Vic, seated, NSU President Dr. Randall Webb, Davy Ammons, Tony Hernandez and Ryan Owens.

A New Look for Vic

Northwestern State University introduced the latest incarnation of its school mascot Vic the Demon during the first home football game versus Southern University in September. Vic apparently brought luck to the Demons who crushed the Jaguars 55-14. A committee of students and administrators developed the mascot's makeover in celebration of Vic's 90th birthday. His new likeness is reminiscent of a demon logo already in use by the NSU Athletic Department and his costume was inspired by athletic uniforms worn at Northwestern State in the early 20th century. A university tradition since 1923, Vic appears at athletic and university functions to entertain and promote school spirit. Fans can stay current on Vic's activities by Friending him at [Facebook.com/vic.thedemon](https://www.facebook.com/vic.thedemon).





Graduate N Club Hall of Fame inductees Terry Joseph and Kyle Shade, two of the greatest players in Demon baseball history, took time after their enshrinement to speak to and visit with the 2014 NSU team at Brown-Stroud Field. Joseph (in a light brown jacket) and Shade (black jacket, glasses) shared memories of their playing days and offered advice on college, baseball and life. Several former players from as far away as St. Louis (Clifton Glidewell) came back for the baseball reunion at Homecoming.



Joining the women's tennis reunion during Homecoming were former and current players Jane Paterson (1991), Olga Bazhanova (2011), Linda Gamo (2015), Tatiana Larina (2005), Polina Konop (2003), Amy Williams (2005), Nataly Krutova (2006), Shayne Fitzwilliam Duke (1989), Daniela Simonova (2016), Aliona Ladutska (2017), Petya Simeonova (2017), Vicky Sims New-som (1992), and Karen Patel Sanderson (1991).



Marking the 25th anniversary of their remarkable Southland Conference championship season, members of the 1988 Demon football team gathered at Homecoming with their head coach, Sam Goodwin. The 1988 Demons were unbeaten in conference play as they won NSU's first Southland football title, beating two No. 1-ranked opponents on the road. They reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA FCS playoffs. Among those attending the reunion were (from left) Dr. Randolph Hayes, Sean Freeman, James McKellum, Brian Guidry, Coach Goodwin, John Evans and Milton Constransitch.



Softball alumni Randi Stuard, Samantha Roberts, Taywanee Edmonds and Brittany Spear were among those who gathered for the Homecoming weekend reunion.



The Graduate N Club conducted its annual Hall of Fame Ceremony on Homecoming morning in the Magale Recital Hall, honoring eight award recipients. Two Distinguished Service Award winners, Jack "Britt" Brittain Jr., far left, and Emma Boozman, far right, were recognized for professional accomplishments and support of their alma mater. Boozman was previously enshrined in the Hall of Fame for her competitive career in basketball and volleyball from 1973-76. The six Hall of Fame inductees for this year were, second from left, Terry Joseph, baseball (1992-95), Maryalyce Walsh Cox, cross country/track and field (1991-95), Kyle Shade, baseball (1992-93), Ferrell Yarbrough, football (1958-61), Amy Grisham Calhoun, softball (1990-93), and Greg Necaie, football (1989-90).



Retiring NSU Track and Field Coach Leon Johnson was awarded the Nth Degree from NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. Johnson was feted with a retirement luncheon in November that drew former student-athletes and colleagues. The Nth Degree is one of the university's highest honors and is bestowed on individuals who go the extra mile in meritorious service to the community.



2014 Basketball Reunion March 8



The **NSU men's and women's basketball** alumni, former players, coaches and staff members, and their families are invited to the annual NSU Basketball Reunion on Saturday, March 8, at Prather Coliseum. A complete schedule and more information will be available on the NSUDemons.com website.

Alumni of the men's program should contact Marcia Bolton, administrative assistant to head coach Mike McConathy, at (318) 357-4274 or boltonma@nsula.edu via email for details and to RSVP.

Lady Demon basketball alumni should contact Chassity Curry, administrative assistant to co-head coaches Brooke and Scott Stoehr, at (318) 357-5891 or currych@nsula.edu via email for information and to confirm participation.

Alumni will be introduced during the media timeouts in the games against Oral Roberts, wrapping up the regular season. The women's game begins at 1 p.m., with the men following with a 3 p.m. scheduled tipoff in Prather Coliseum.

Looking Back

From the 1987 *Potpourri*:

A college with a good band is a college with a good personality, or so it is believed. And if such is the case, then Northwestern certainly ranks at the top. Under the direction of Bill Brent, the Northwestern Marching Band has shown the world what a small university band can produce. Growing from 48 members to over 200 in the past four years, the marching band has more bodies than uniforms. They are expected to receive uniforms before next marching season by soliciting private donations.

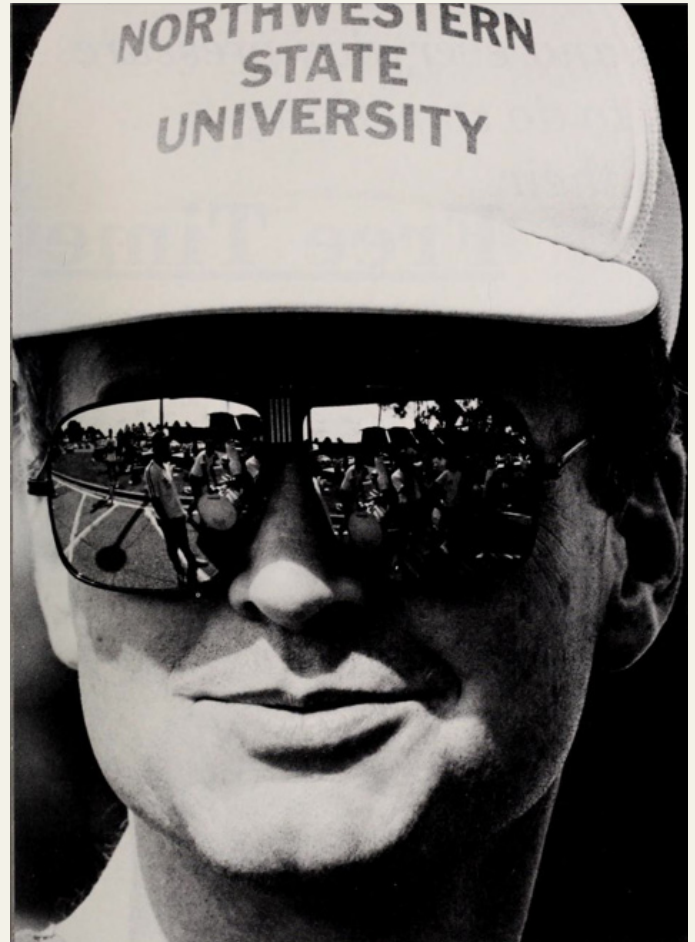
Asked about the effect of the increased number in the band, Brent said, "Along with the increased number, we also have more talent to choose from." He also said that with the new members, the band is exciting for everyone involved.

Those who attend events like football and basketball games at Northwestern know the band provides entertainment and extra cheers. They scream, have fun, tease opponents and coaches and play their hearts out all evening. They even stayed after the Stephen F. Austin football game and succeeded in outplaying the band from Nacodoches, Texas.

The Spirit of Northwestern has had an excellent reputation throughout the South for several years. "Now that Dr. Alost has been recruiting higher quality students with higher ACT scores, the band has gotten good kids who are also better musicians," Brent said. The reputation of the NSU Marching Band continues to grow as the enrollment figures steadily increase.

Brent said, "More and more high school band directors have been referring their students to me and I get calls every day from students who would like to join band when they get here."

Goals for next year include increasing the size of the band while maintaining a high level of quality. As the Northwestern Marching Band continues on its way up the ladder of success, fans and supporters will continue to cheer for them.



Updates

1941

Juanita M. Phillips Brinsmade is retired from teaching science and home economics in Slidell. She lives in Biloxi, Miss., with her husband Akbar, and noted that all her *Potpourri* yearbooks "drowned in Hurricane Katrina."

1949

George Wade Graves and Joan Harrington Graves live in Houston where George is retired from Texas Eastern Transmission and Joan is retired from Spring Branch ISD.

1971, 1987

John Edward Kerley of Shreveport is retired after working as a teacher and principal for over 35 years.

1973

Monica Renee Pinkney Pruitt is retired and lives in Greenville, S.C.

1988

Stephanie Diane Reynolds Burkhead lives in Garland, Texas, with her husband Greg Burkhead (1989).

1992

Dana Lee Lofton is a registered nurse and COI director for STAT Home Health. She lives in Prairieville with her husband Alan.

1999

Jason Ray Miller is chief sales officer/rehab coordinator at Hometown Healthcare in Toney, Ala., where he lives with his wife Tina.

2012

Jeffrey Steven Ware of Waco, Texas, is a seminary student at Baylor University and youth pastor at Oak Lawn Baptist Church in Bellmead, Texas.

Alumni Columns

magazine is online with an extended version including the new **Lagniappe** section where more snippets, alumni spotlights, additional photos and video clips can be found. View the full magazine with the online section at northwesternalumni.com/alumnicolumns.



1949, 1968 – Camille Stroud, Nov. 3, 2013, Natchitoches
 1950 – Ernest “Slim” Howell, Oct. 17, 2013, Natchitoches
 1950 – Claude “Jodie” Stautamire, Oct. 7, 2013, Tallahassee, Fla.
 1954 – Gladys Ruth Shaw Reynolds, May 12, 2013, Shreveport
 1954 – John Thornhill, Oct. 6, 2013, Monroe
 1964 – David Lee Calaway, July 23, 2013, Golden, Mo.
 1969 – Nohely S. Brodermann, March 2, 2013, Coral Gables, Fla.
 1978 – Margaret J. Harling, Aug. 18, 2013, Natchitoches
 1985 – Arthur “Tank” Berry, Aug. 20, 2013, Branson, Mo.
 Johnny Wayne Cox, Oct. 11, 2013, Natchitoches
 Rosalind Carter Wright, Oct. 26, 2013, Many

Guess Who

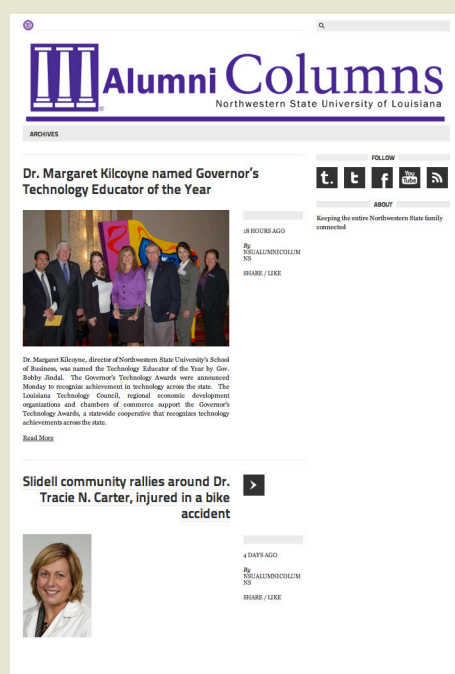
In a successful effort to increase listeners and get more students involved, the 1986-87 staff at KNWD revamped the station's image with a new logo and new format focused on album-oriented rock. The students also initiated dollar movie nights at Parkway Cinema and pizza parties for student listeners. One of their most successful events was a midnight showing of Rocky Horror Picture Show on Halloween night with movie-goers decked in out costume. Pictured above are the station manager and a disc jockey preparing to go on air. Can you name them? The first five readers to call the Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 will win a prize.



The answer to the Fall Guess Who, the coed from Campti who reigned over the annual clash against Louisiana Tech, was Betty Coutee. Those who guess correctly were:

*Susan Stanley 1973
 Gail Stephenson 1976
 Willard Brown 1975
 Heather Christophe 2006
 Shanna Lebrum 1994*

Social networks, blogs, photo/video hosting sites offer new avenues for alumni to keep their fingers on the pulse of NSU



In addition to the e-newsletter, Facebook, Twitter and You Tube, Northwestern State has several new ways for you to access news and information about campus events, university programs and alumni accomplishments.

Visit this magazine's tumblr blog at nsualumnicolumns.tumblr.com for daily links and postings relevant to the Northwestern State family.

Enjoy photos of campus, Homecoming festivities, athletic events and more at flickr.com/nsula.

Vimeo.com/nsula and youtube.com/northwesternstate lets viewers watch our latest videos and commercials.

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/nsula and twitter.com/nsulaalumni and like NSU's university page at Facebook.com/NorthwesternState and the Alumni Association page at Facebook.com/nsula.alumni.

These social media sites make it easy for alumni and friends to stay current on the great things happening at Northwestern State and with our supporters everywhere.

All these links are accessible via our homepage at nsula.edu. Just click on the icons in the upper left of the screen beneath the Future Students button.

If you are not registered to receive The Purple Pulse, the Alumni Association's monthly e-newsletter, you can sign up by contacting Haley Blount, associate director of Alumni Affairs by e-mailing blounth@nsula.edu.

Campus News



Caspari Descendants:

The Sutton and Abington families, descendants of “Father of the Normal School” Capt. Leopold Caspari, were on-hand for the dedication of the Northwestern State university building named for their ancestor. The renovated Caspari Hall houses upper administrative offices for the university. From left are NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb, along with Marshall Sutton, Mark Sutton, Pete Abington, Margaret Sutton, Kerlin Sutton, Jonathan Donaldson, Ellen Donaldson, Kathy Sutton and Gov. Bobby Jindal. Caspari spearheaded the effort to locate the Louisiana Normal School, now Northwestern State University, in Natchitoches in 1884.



SSC Ribbon Cutting:

Northwestern State University students joined state, local and university officials in cutting the ribbon on the university’s new Student Services Center, which centralizing several offices that deal directly with student affairs. From left are University of Louisiana Board of Regents member Jimmy Long, Melanie McBride, assistant director of university recruiting for graduate, transfer and adult students (partially hidden); Assistant Vice President for External Affairs Dr. Chris Maggio, NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb, Student Activities Board President Alayni Guidry, Miss Northwestern-Lady of the Bracelet Brianna Collier, Student Government Association President Kyla Winey, Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce President and Chief Executive Officer Tony Davis, Harold Boutte, assistant commissioner of administrative services for the Board of Regents; Natchitoches Parish President Rick Nowlin, University of Louisiana System President Dr. Sandra Woodley, Vice President for University Affairs Dr. Marcus Jones, State Sen. Gerald Long, Architect Wayne Coco, State Rep. Kenny Cox, State Rep. Terry Brown, Vice President for External Affairs Jerry Pierce and Natchitoches Parish Council member Ricky LaCour.

None of the eight people honored during Northwestern State's annual Graduate N Club Hall of Fame ceremony are relatives, but they each expressed a strong sense of family ties as keys to their success and the trigger to an emotional round of acceptance speeches.

Demon baseball's career batting king, Kyle Shade, who hit a school-record .427 in 1992-93, returned from his Arizona home with his brother introducing him, and got inducted alongside a teammate whose offensive numbers were equally impressive, Terry Joseph. The two-time Academic All-American ended his four-year career in 1995 with three Southland Conference championship rings and 10 offensive school records.

"Coming home again, to see guys from 20 years ago, and to have Terry next to me – I remember him as a skinny freshman, we came in the same year, when I was a junior transferring in. You could tell from the beginning he was a great young leader," said Shade. "I'm just so proud of him. He's like a brother.

"That's what you remember. It's not records, and nobody plays for awards. *You play because you want to impress your family, you want to impress your friends, and your teammates become your extended family.* That's why you saw so many tears today, so much emotion. That's what fueled everybody, and that's why we were so successful across every sport. It's that feeling that this is so incredibly important and it's intertwined in what everybody goes on to do throughout life."

The family ties transcended sports boundaries, said Mary-alyce Walsh Cox, who finished third in the 1991 USA Junior cross country championships as a freshman and still holds Lady Demon records in the 3k, 5k, and 10,000 meter runs.

"You have your family from home, then your teammates and your extended NSU athletic family, because at a smaller school, all of the athletes know each other, among all the sports," said Cox, an attorney in Houston who was proud to enter the Hall alongside four of her Northwestern athletic contemporaries – Joseph, Shade and four-time All-Southland softball outfielder Amy Grisham Calhoun (1990-93).

"I got to witness first-hand their performances on the field, and getting to see them inducted alongside me was really special. It's such an honor," said Cox.

Joseph, who has jumped sports and is the defensive backs coach for the Nebraska Cornhuskers, said he was glad his football team had an open date so he could realize a dream with his mother, his wife Amanda and their two young children in the audience.

"This day has been on my bucket list, at No. 2. The No. 1 thing is for my kids to feel like I should be in the Daddy Hall of Fame," he said.

"It's the crowning achievement of my playing career, to

come back to a school where you've put in so much hard work, sweat and tears. To go in with a guy like Kyle Shade, who ironically probably drove me in on a lot of the runs I scored in my first two years, makes it that much more special. *It's a great achievement that I can share with a wonderful teammate I had, and with my family, and it's something I'll never forget."*

He also relished being enshrined among classmates.

"You've got 4-5 of us going in today, whose careers overlapped, and it just goes to show you never know when you're watching greatness unfold," said Joseph. "They made the extraordinary look ordinary."

Retired Demon football coach Sam Goodwin introduced 1990 All-America defensive end Greg Necaise, describing him as a player whose competitive fire and desire elevated him to exceptional performances.

"This is a tremendous honor," responded Necaise. "The only thing that tops it is hearing the things said today by Coach Goodwin and from team-

mates who have called me. Having their respect is the ultimate compliment."

Calhoun, introduced by her father Billy Grisham, reflected on what being included in the Graduate N Club Hall means.

"It means all your work and efforts, everything you've done from the time you were playing T-ball on up, has combined to make this possible," she said. *"You can't do it without two things, God and family. I'm blessed that both were with me all the way. It's been a true honor."*

The three oldest honorees were profoundly touched by their recognition Saturday.

"I'm very honored to have been selected," said football great Ferrell Yarbrough, the first Demon to play in a college all-star game before he joined the AFL's Oakland Raiders as a defensive tackle following his Northwestern career from 1958-61. "After all these years, I didn't think it was going to happen, but I love Northwestern and it means a lot to me."

Two classmates from the 1970s received Distinguished Service Awards Saturday.

"Words cannot describe what it means to me. All I can say is Northwestern, thank you for giving me the greatest time of my life," said Jack "Britt" Brittain Jr., honored for his selfless efforts for decades on behalf of every sport at NSU. "Thank you so much."

Emma Boozman became the first person previously enshrined in the Graduate N Club Hall (1993) as a competitor to receive the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing her remarkable 36-year career as a high school basketball coach.

"What an honor. Over the years, I had the chance and might have made a difference in people's lives, and I am thankful Northwestern has honored me this way," she said. "It's so special."



Alumni News



What A Guy!

Lauren Waguespack says yes to an epic proposal

They didn't get a yes from all the judges, but they got a standing ovation and the right "yes" when Lauren Waguespack and her boyfriend David Gray appeared on the X Factor in September. David's surprise proposal was the highlight of the show, a popular TV music competition, and a huge surprise for Lauren.

"I had nooooo idea he was doing this," Lauren said after the episode aired and the video went viral. "It was the last thing I thought he would do since there were so many other preparations for the audition. As you could see in my face....I never saw it coming!"

The couple were already planning an RV trip to New Orleans, when Lauren's mother told her that X Factor auditions were the same weekend.

"I told David I wouldn't audition unless he auditioned with me. He did and we made it past three rounds at

the New Orleans Lakefront Arena. The third audition we were told that if we didn't get a call before the beginning of June, then we were cut, but we got the call and they wanted us both. In his head, David thought that if we both got a call to go in front of the judges, he was going to propose," Lauren said. The call came on David's 31st birthday, May 28, leaving a short time to prepare. "He had until June 12 to buy a ring, plan an epic proposal and practice his songs for the audition. He did amazing and I am so proud that he pulled this off. The big day came and he and his brother hid it so well. They filmed us all day, interviewed us and then everyone saw how it all panned out on stage."

David, who is a mechanical engineer, admitted he was stepping out of his element for love. The two had been dating for six months.

After David's performance of Usher's "Nice and Slow," Lauren took the stage to sing Katy Perry's "Teenage Dream." David waited in the wings until the moment he stepped onto the stage to pop the question.

Of course, Lauren said yes while the judges and audience cheered.

What viewers didn't see is that Lauren got a yes from Demi Lovato and Paulina Rubio "and Kelly Rowland said that we should just go home and make beautiful babies," Lauren said.

At Northwestern State, Waguespack was a theatre major with a double concentration in musical theatre and dance. She was Miss NSU, captain of the Demon Dazzlers and a member of Homecoming Court and Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority and a Dean's List student. She appeared in several theatre productions and started a Glee Club on campus. Lauren is working towards opening a photography studio and writing music. She hopes to produce an album within the next year.

As of press time, the couple had not set a date.

"We want to enjoy being engaged for a little while," she said.

View a clip of the proposal at [youtube.com/watch?v=UjFU_r0vqGY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjFU_r0vqGY).

More on their courtship is available at [youtube.com/watch?v=4OkIBtOpqEA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OkIBtOpqEA&feature=youtu.be)

The couple also has a website forever-gray.com.

School of Business inducts alumni into Hall of Distinction

Northwestern State University's School of Business inducted four individuals into its Hall of Distinction this year. Charles "Ed" Dranguet of Natchitoches, Joe Schelette of Shreveport, R. Stewart Ewing Jr. of Monroe and Barbara Jo Pease of Houston were recognized during Homecoming 2013 Festivities.

Dranguet, a 1961 graduate of Northwestern State, is retired as president and chief executive officer at Exchange Bank and Trust. He is also founder of Dranguet Appraisal Services and is a business development officer for Argent Financial Group. He is a graduate of the LSU Banking School of the South and is a Louisiana certified real estate appraiser. A 1955 graduate of St. Mary's School, he is also a member of that school's Academic Hall of Fame. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Dranguet has served as a board member for the Audubon Golf Trail, the Louisiana Retirement Commission and Blue Key National Honor Society, served on the Natchitoches City Council and Chamber of Commerce and has volunteered with Kiwanis, Boy Scouts of America and numerous other organizations that support Northwestern State, St. Mary's School, local and regional economic development, civic and philanthropic endeavors and community and preservation initiatives.

Ewing is executive vice president, chief financial officer and assistant secretary for CenturyLink. He earned a bachelor's degree in business in 1973 and joined CenturyLink in 1983 as vice president of finance. He has since served as vice president and controller, senior vice president and chief financial officer and executive vice president prior to his current position.

Ewing has played a key role in CenturyLink's acquisition strategy by negotiating all stages of purchase agreements from legal and regulatory to folding new companies into their corporate structure and philosophy. His responsibilities include managing CenturyLink's accounting, treasury, supply chain, real estate and internal audit functions. Ewing's expertise includes management of the regulatory, information systems and corporate planning and development areas. He has been a contributor to the company's growth over the years.

Pease, a 1973 graduate of Northwestern State, was the chief ethics and compliance officer and the director of the Ethics and Compliance Office for Shell in the United States until her retirement from a long career in management roles for Shell. In 2000, she established Shell's first Ethics and Compliance Office as well as the company's overall Ethics and Compliance program for all Shell companies operating in the United States. In 2005 and 2006, she served as a consultant to the Royal Dutch Shell Compliance Officer, as RDS initiated additional focus on a global compliance program to cover 120,000 employees in 140 countries. Today, she consults in the area of ethics and compliance to a variety of companies.

Pease is also a co-founder of the Louisiana Youth Seminar, a program that encourages youth to develop their potential to success and achieve goals that since 1971 has empowered more than 9,000 high school students from throughout Louisiana. She has been involved with numerous professional and community organizations and was named one of 10 Women on the Move by Texas Executive Women. She was inducted into Northwestern State's Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, in 2006.

Schelette, a 1969 graduate of Northwestern State, has worked as an accountant with Southwest Electric Power Company, a division of American Power Company, for the last 35 years. He is an avid supporter of Northwestern State athletics and is a member of the Athletic Association Board of Directors. He established the Joe Schelette Scholarship through a matching program with SWEPCO to benefit upper-level students majoring in accounting.

Foundation News



Rachel Bradley of Campti, a junior accounting major at Northwestern State University, was recognized as one of this year's recipients of the Natchitoches Board of Realtors Scholarship during a luncheon the group sponsored. The scholarship is presented annually to one male and one female NSU student majoring in business or a related field. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and be at least a second-year student. From left are Board President Janice Bolton, Bradley, Board Secretary Shanna Braxton, Jill Bankston, associate director of Development at NSU; Board Treasurer Sue Weaver and Board Executive Michelle Jordan. Not shown is this year's other recipient, Kenneth Nolley, a junior business major from Natchitoches.



Red and Joe Lapeyrouse established a scholarship at Northwestern State University to benefit music education majors beginning their student teaching. From left are Dr. Malena McLaren, acting coordinator of music; Greg Handel, acting director of the School for Creative and Performing Arts, Red and Jo Lapeyrouse and Amber Wiggins of Alexandria, first recipient of the scholarship.

Scholarship will benefit music ed senior

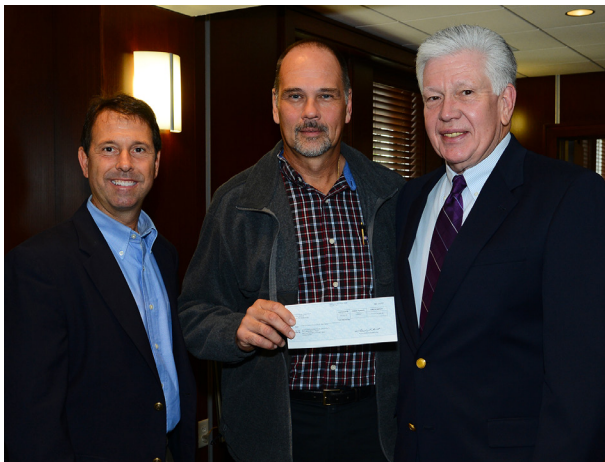
E.J. "Red" and Jo Lapeyrouse have established the Red Lapeyrouse Music Education Scholarship at Northwestern State University. The Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts recognized the Lapeyrouses prior to recent student recital performances in which the scholarship's first recipient, Amber Wiggins, a senior music education major from Alexandria, was also recognized.

"Red and his wife Jo are supporters of us and Red is a legendary music educator from Louisiana. They established this scholarship to aid a student teacher who is student teaching in Louisiana."

—Greg Handel, acting director of the School for Creative and Performing Arts

Jo Lapeyrouse said she and her husband established the scholarship when they learned that music education students do not receive band scholarships when they begin student teaching because they are no longer on campus participating in ensembles. Red Lapeyrouse spoke to NSU students, many who are training to be music educators and band directors, about the importance of teaching music fundamentals to youngsters and encouraging the talents of each individual student.

For more information on Northwestern State's music programs, visit music.nsula.edu.



Mike Mancil, vice president of operations for Atmos Energy's Southern Region, presented a \$5,000 check to the Northwestern State University Foundation. The company annually donates funds to the university, which go towards student scholarships, faculty support and academic programming. From left are Dr. Chris Maggio, assistant vice president for External Affairs; Mancil and NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. Atmos Energy Corporation, headquartered in Dallas, is one of the largest distributors of natural gas in the United States, serving about three million natural gas distribution customers, including the Natchitoches area.

Nursing professor on a mission to save babies



Dr. Wendi Palermo's motto: "Saving Babies – One Crib at a Time."

Palermo, an assistant professor of nursing at Northwestern State's Leesville-Fort Polk campus, initiated a grassroots effort to help families in need care for their most vulnerable members -- their newborns. The Cribs for Kids project helps families in the Leesville area keep their infants safe by educating expectant mothers about infant care and eliminating one of the risks for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, co-sleeping. Palermo has donated about 100 cribs to expectant mothers and follows up with the family until the baby is one year old.

"This program is aimed at families, mothers and caregivers who cannot afford a bed for their baby. No bed for their baby? We're talking bare minimum and they do not have it," she said, describing cases in which the women she counsels arrive by taxi because they don't own a car. "These women chose life for their baby. They are trying to escape societal judgment and I thank them for taking steps to protect their baby. I thank them. Their faces light up. Many moms and future grandmothers have left my office in tears of joy because someone cares for them and their baby."

Palermo said while working as an emergency room nurse early in her career she was shocked by the number of babies brought in dead on arrival and vowed to do what she could to lower the infant mortality rate in Louisiana, which is one of the highest in the nation.

"Many infant deaths occur because of co-sleeping or an unsafe sleeping environment. I have donated approximately 100 cribs to expecting mothers and we are calling them one year after the baby is due to see if they would rate my program, to determine if they utilized the safe sleep practices and crib I donated during the class and to determine if their baby survived their first year."

Collecting follow-up data on program participants is challenging because many change phone numbers or residences, but Palermo and her colleague Linda Nichols, also an assistant professor of nursing at NSU Leesville-Fort Polk, have tracked 35-40 percent of participants, with positive results.

"So far we have not lost a single baby. All the participants have rated the program extremely high. We are still knee deep in the analysis phase but the numbers are extremely encouraging," Palermo said.

Palermo began her nursing career as a candy stripper shadowing her mother, also a nurse, at age 12. She earned an associate degree in nursing at Northwestern State in 1999 and was motivated to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing when she realized how impactful a bachelor's degree would be for her career. She completed her bachelor's in 2002 and, after moving with her husband to Calcasieu Parish, enrolled in the master's program at McNeese State University, completing that degree in 2004. Her graduate research in code bedside procedure led to a change in policy at the hospital where she worked and continued on to earn a Ph.D. in nursing research from Southern University in 2011.

Because of her earlier experiences with infant mortality, Palermo chose to research the variable that affect infant mortality and developed a predictive equation to determine who was the most at risk and if the number of health-care providers and hospitals make a difference. When she found that access to a higher number of nurses positively affected the SIDS rate, she developed Cribs for Kids.

After completing her Ph.D., Palermo earned Northwestern State's Creighton-

Owen Endowed Professorship in Nursing. In addition to funding research, the award allowed her to purchase cribs and other items for expectant mothers. She works with pregnancy and community centers in Leesville and DeRidder to distribute cribs to families in need. Expectant mothers attend a class and receive counseling on baby care and safety and agree to the one-year follow-up.

"I try to make each mom feel special. I ask them about college. I always encourage them to call me. I'm proud that my colleagues at NSU Leesville-Ft. Polk, especially Linda Nichols, Catherine Merchant and Wendy Bartlett, support my efforts to make a positive impact in our community," Palermo said.

"We are very proud of what Dr. Palermo and the Leesville faculty have accomplished," said Dr. Pamela Simmons, head of the Department of Nursing. The mission of the College of Nursing and Allied Health is to 'serve the people of Louisiana and in so doing improve the health of the its citizens' and to assist faculty in 'achieving their professional goals as responsible and contributing members of the nursing profession and of society.' In identifying and addressing a huge safety concern for mothers and their newborn infants, Dr. Palermo has definitely demonstrated what nursing and nursing leaders do best...and she earned her Ph.D. on top of it all. It is certainly, a win-win for the citizens of that parish and for NSU as another faculty member exhibits completion of such a huge scholarly endeavor."

Palermo's efforts were praised recently by Louisiana Future of Nursing, an organization that is part of a coalition to transform healthcare through nursing.

"Serving the community in this capacity gives me the chance to go beyond the immediate need. I encourage young women to think about the future; I ask them what they want to do, and we talk about careers. I even try to recruit some of them into the field of nursing. We want to consider the whole person, the whole situation, and do what we can."

Read more about how Palermo is fulfilling what she believes is her calling at: louisianafutureofnursing.org/site/Newsroom/tabid/88/ArticleID/11/Default.aspx.

For information on Northwestern State's College of Nursing and Allied Health, visit nursing.nsula.edu.

Five inducted into Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development selected five alumni of the college to be 2013 inductees into the College's Hall of Distinguished Educators during Homecoming festivities. Honorees were Carol H. Hebert of Alexandria, Sally Tanner Namie of Benton, the late Dr. John Basin Robson, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dr. James Rougeau of Branson, Mo., and John R. Williams of Baton Rouge. Honorees must have graduated from Northwestern State's College of Education at least 30 years prior to nomination. The College has also named two Friends of Education, Dr. Jeanne Burns of Baton Rouge and Dr. Michael Randy Moffett.

Hebert earned a degree in business education in 1971, a master's in business education in 1980 and Plus 30 in adult education in 1997 at Northwestern State. She began her career teaching computer skills at the high school level in the fast-changing world of technology while sponsoring Future Business Leaders of America organizations at Natchitoches Central High and St. Mary's School from 1976-1997. She then moved to the Louisiana Community Technical College System and was coordinator of ACT work keys testing for Louisiana Work Ready project. She was also engaged in curriculum development and workforce development and worked with students to provide services and assistance in completing educational goals.

Hebert is currently the chief of staff/special advisor to the chancellor at Central Louisiana Technical Community College in Alexandria and is assisting in the transition of the technical college into a comprehensive community college. Prior to that, she was campus dean, chief academic officer and technical division curriculum coordinator at Northwest Louisiana Technical College in Natchitoches, having spent several years there in other administrative capacities related to student affairs and workforce development.

Namie graduated from Northwestern State with a double major in elementary education and library science in 1972. She earned a master's degree in reading at Louisiana State University in 1979 and Plus 30 in instructional supervision at Centenary College, Louisiana Tech, LSU-Shreveport and Northwestern State. She earned a master of library and information science degree from LSU and additional certifications at Louisiana Tech.

Namie has spent her career with the Bossier Parish school system in classroom and administrative capacities and is currently assistant superintendent of curriculum and academic affairs, where she has channeled her love of math to creating programs focused on exposing students to science, technology engineering and math (STEM). She supported STEM curricula for elementary through high school students and is a recognized leader in implementing programs that prepare students for college engineering classes.

Robson, who was born in 1899, earned a teacher's certificate from the Alabama Normal School in 1920 and Artium Baccalaureus (AB) in chemistry and biology from Louisiana State Normal School, now Northwestern State University, in 1928. He earned a master's in chemistry and biology at Louisiana State University in 1937 and a Ph.D. in secondary education and psychology at Vanderbilt University's Pea-

body College in 1944.

Robson began his career teaching at West Point, Miss., and was a teacher and principal at Natchitoches High School, Vowell's Mill, Cloutierville and Robeline until becoming a supervisor in Natchitoches in 1934. He went on to serve as state supervisor and was named Dean of Education at Northwestern State in 1945. He served as head of the Department of Education and Psychology at Northwestern State and Louisiana College and returned to NSU as director of instructional programs and materials for the North Louisiana Supplementary Education Center. Robson passed away in 1968.

Rougeau earned a degree in health and physical education at Northwestern State in 1958, a master's and specialist degrees in administration and supervision at McNeese State University in 1973 and 1982 and a Ph.D. in administration and supervision at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1989. He began his career as a teacher and coach in Sabine Parish before serving in the U.S. Army from 1958-1980. He returned to the public system as teacher and coach in Calcasieu Parish and served as principal at schools in Sabine, West Feliciana and DeSoto parishes until 2000. Rougeau said his most memorable experience as an educator was training soldiers at the Venezuelan Military Academy, where success or failure in real-life situations depended directly upon the quality and effectiveness of his instruction.

Williams earned a bachelor's degree in upper elementary education in 1959 and a master's in education administration in 1966 at Northwestern State. He taught in Grant and East Baton Rouge parish schools from 1959-66 before joining the staff at Louisiana State University as director of short courses and conferences. In 1977 he was the founding dean of the Division of Continuing Education and from 1982-86 was director of governmental relations for the Louisiana Bankers Association. He later served as executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and as vice chancellor for advancement at LSU Medical Center in New Orleans.

Burns is associate commission for Teacher and Leadership Initiatives for the Louisiana Board of Regents. She earned a bachelor's degree in special education with a double major in learning disabilities and mental retardation at the University of West Florida in 1975. She earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in education in curriculum and instruction majoring in reading and minoring in school psychology at Louisiana State University in 1979 and 1986 respectively.

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Porter Forum speakers share tales of successes, challenges

Pete Abington has been a successful banker and businessman in central and northwest Louisiana for many years. He was chairman of People's State Bank until its merger with MidSouth Bank and now serves on MidSouth's board of directors. Over the years, he has owned, operated or had interests in businesses that engage in mortgage loans, real estate, auto dealerships, insurance, radio, nursing homes and other investments. He has also been very active in civic and charitable endeavors.

"I always had ambition and I always had a plan. Nothing works if you don't have a good family. There's no magic; just determination and you have to stay focused. Stay involved with your community and always give back."

Abington described himself as a dreamer and an impressionable youngster growing up in Many, owing much to his parents and making it "by the seat of my britches." As a freshman at Louisiana Tech he was unsure about his future "but I wanted to make money and I wanted to be a success."

He was outgoing, elected to class offices and graduated with a degree in business. He described how he became involved in the mortgage business, then finance, auto dealerships and other ventures and the growth of People's State Bank until its

merger with MidSouth, an institution he described as conservative, aggressive and community-oriented. In addition to his position at MidSouth, he currently has investments in nursing homes, enjoys cattle farming and is involved in community service in Many. He was named an honorary alumnus of Northwestern State in 2011.

Bits of advice he offered to students in the audience: "If you don't ask for it, you're not going to get it. Learn to prospect." "Don't pretend to understand something you don't, but back the person who does." "Be honest."

"I know about hard work, dreaming, staying awake at night worrying about how to work the deal," he said. "Thank God you are healthy. And it doesn't hurt to be involved in politics."

Sherri Talley is owner of Talley Media, a marketing company in Shreveport that specializes in social media management, photography and brand-building for businesses. She is a Northwestern State graduate who had a successful career as a broadcast journalist and has held positions in marketing and public relations. As a reporter and anchor at KTBS-TV, she also managed the station's social media and news department's website.

At NSU, Talley was news director at KNWD-FM, a member of Purple Jackets and Miss NSU. She graduated with a degree in business administration and worked as director of enrollment

at Northwestern before other career paths and has reinvented herself in her professional life more than once. Talley related doing business in the current economy with taking calculated risks, making oneself valuable to clients and embracing change.

"Don't be afraid to take a chance," she said, describing early experiences with radio, making mistakes, seeking ways to do better and always having a Plan B. She also pointed out the importance of being authentic and going with your gut.

"I sensed changes early on and acted on them," said Talley, who took on the role of social media and website management at KTBS when those avenues were just emerging. In September 2008, she experienced what she calls the Hurricane Ike Factor when the station streamed their broadcast live via webcam in an experiment that met the needs of people who lacked other ways to communicate and find out information. During the 14-hour broadcast, the station brought in meteorologists, emergency response professionals and others that created a rolling online dialogue for people looking for information.

With her expertise in social media and marketing, she now helps small businesses, primarily restaurants and retailers, determine the best way to spend their money. She believes the golden rule of business is putting yourself in your customer's place.

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Educators continued from page 25

Burns was a teacher and served and professor of education for many years before joining the Gov. Mike Foster's staff as a special projects director in 1999. She served under three governors as associate commissioner for Teacher Education Initiatives until joining the Board of Regents staff in 2008. She has been a leader in education reform and redesigning teacher preparation programs to address more rigorous expectations and provide evidence that programs are preparing effective new teachers and leaders.

Moffett earned degree in social studies education with a minor in English at Louisiana Tech University in 1969, a master's in student personnel service with a minor in psychology at Northwestern State in 1971 and Ed.D. in education administration with a minor in psychology at Louisiana State University in 1980.

Moffett spent many years as a professor and administrator at Southeastern Louisiana University where he served as head of the Department of Education from 1982-87, vice provost from 1994-95, vice president for Planning, Research and Development from 1995-1996 and president from 2001-08. He then served as president of the University of Louisiana System from 2008-2012. The UL System, of which Northwestern State is a member, at the time enrolled 80,000 students and offered more than 600 academic degree programs. As president, Moffett was the representative of the System in addressing the governor, the legislature, the Board of Regents and other state officials. Moffett was inducted into Northwestern State's Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, in 2011.



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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"I've seen change and great resistance to change. Embrace it, even if it makes you uncomfortable. Seize whatever comes your way. A big key is adaptability. Take the opportunity and figure out some way to be of service. Have something satisfying and profitable. The status quo is just not an option. Keep thinking, keep changing and keep doing what you love and you'll be successful."

John Manno, also a Northwestern State graduate, is vice president of his family-owned company, Southland Printing in Shreveport, America's largest supplier of parking lot tickets. He is very active in community and philanthropic endeavors in Shreveport/Bossier City and is one of Northwestern State's most devoted advocates. He discussed the economic outlook in Louisiana and the importance of community service.

"Louisiana has promise as an economic leader and has the most rapidly improving business climate in the country," Manno said. Key industries are aerospace, agribusiness, automotive, energy, manufacturing, process industries, software development and water management. "Our state is doing things to make living here better and keep young people here."

In Shreveport/Bossier, the economic outlook is bright because of the low cost of doing business in Louisiana and economic development market-

ing campaigns have been effective in improving perceptions about the state. Key regional industries are in manufacturing, biotech, technology, film, oil and gas, healthcare and defense. He listed companies such as Drax Biomass that is reconfiguring unused paper mills in Bastrop, Baton Rouge and Gloster, Miss., to produce wood pellets and Elio Motors, which is slated to manufacture three-wheeled high efficiency vehicles in Shreveport's former GM assembly plant. He said the Greater Bossier Economic Development Foundation reports growth of the film industry, the Cyber Innovation Center, small business training and land sale opportunities in industrial parks as helpful in building the region's economy.

Manno's business, begun by his father who discovered a niche in the printing industry, is one of only three of its kind in the United States and is steeped in the entrepreneurial spirit of his Italian immigrant family.

"My father said 'What the mind can conceive and believe can be achieved,'" said Manno, who listed the company's business principals as quality, trust, innovation, adaptation and integrity. Clients are primarily in the parking and transit industry and Southland has

been a pioneer as tickets evolved to include magnetic strips, bar codes, radio frequency identification, QR codes and automated valet parking.

"Community involvement is very important to me," said Manno, who has devoted much of his time and energy non-profit and cultural organizations in northwest Louisiana. He encouraged his audience to think about community development and civic responsibility.

"Support and working with the Chamber is good for us, good for busi-

"My father said 'What the mind can conceive and believe can be achieved.'"

—John Manno Jr.

ness, good for the economy," Manno said, pointing out that earlier this year Forbes magazine listed Louisiana as America's new frontier for business opportunities.

The J. Walter Porter Forum is an effort to translate the textbook into practice by bringing successful business executives to campus to speak to students. The forum is made possible by the endowment established by the family and friends of the late J. Walter Porter, who was interested in improving the image of business as a career field for college students.

Bead Town mural celebrates Natchitoches life and traditions

Fanfare and festivities were expected for the Dec. 4 unveiling of a mural commissioned by the City of Natchitoches in celebration of its Tricentennial. "Une Rue Principale en Louisiane (A Main Street of Louisiana)" was to be unveiled Dec. 4 in conjunction with a visit by officials from the Guinness Book of World Records who would certify that that 48-foot mosaic is the largest bead mural in the world to date. "Une Rue Principale en Louisiane" is an intricately detailed panoramic view of Front Street and Cane River made entirely of recycled Mardi Gras beads. The piece incorporates many symbolic images that acknowledge the city's historic past and regional and cultural influences.

Artist Stephan Wanger worked for months on the mural and organized workshops in which volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life cut, sorted and glued beads for the Natchitoches piece and other bead works of art. Northwestern State University's School of Creative and Performing Arts/Department of Fine + Graphic Art played host to the project, which was also supported by the Cane River National Heritage Area. The mural was housed and displayed in NSU's Orville Hanchey Gallery.

Wanger is a German-born artist who moved to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and began creating large-scale works of art using discarded Mardi Gras beads. Bead Town murals are a tribute to Louisiana culture as well as a means of raising awareness about recycling and using upcycled materials in fine art. His work has appeared in several Main Street communities in Louisiana, including New Orleans, Denham Springs and Slidell.

In conjunction with the Tricentennial, Wanger initiated the Natchitoches Legacy Art Project, an interest-bearing educational trust that will benefit Natchitoches students 300 years in the future. The trust is being established through the sale of 300 prints of the Natchitoches mural and managed by the Cane River National Heritage Area.

The unveiling also occurred in tandem with screenings of a documentary film about Wanger and his work by the independent Cataclysm Pictures. Information on the film is available at beadtownfilm.com.

Wanger's next projects will take him to the Midwest where projects will Gary, Ind., Valparaiso, Ind., and a Mardi Gras in Chicago are planned.

More of his work can be seen at galeriaalegria.com and at [Facebook.com/BeadTownNatchitoches](https://www.facebook.com/BeadTownNatchitoches).

